

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01445 01 OF 02 311410Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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R 311320Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2802  
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 1445

USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SCUL, TGEN, CZ  
SUBJECT: GOC SUBMITS DRAFT IMPLEMENTING PLAN FOR EXCHANGES  
AGREEMENT, WANTS TO RESUME TALKS

1. SUMMARY, THE GOC, AFTER DRAGGING OUT ITS INTERNAL CLEARANCE  
OF THE DRAFT CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT DURING SEVERAL  
MONTHS SUDDENLY PUT ON HIGH-LEVEL PRESSURE TO MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY  
AND HAS HANDED OVER A DRAFT OF THE EDUCATIONAL-CULTURAL PART OF  
THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE FEBRUARY, MFA OFFICIALS HAVE MADE DESULTORY PROBES  
ABOUT WHERE USG STANDS ON CONCLUDING THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT  
AND HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REWRITE THE HISTORY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS  
TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT US SIDE UNILATERALLY INSISTED THAT AGREEMENT  
AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS MUST BE SIGNED SIMULTANEOUSLY. STARTING  
A WEEK AGO, HOWEVER, THE TEMPO OF THEIR EFFORS HAS ACCELERATED  
DRAMATICALLY AND ESCALATED TO THE MINISTER-DEPUTY MINISTER LEVEL.  
AT A RECENT RECEPTION DEPUTY MINISTER SPACIL AND SIXTH DEPARTMENT  
CHIEF ZANTOVSKY BUTTON-HOLED THE AMBASSADOR AND ASKED WHY USG  
WAS DRAGGING ITS FEET ON SIGNING THE AGREEMENT. AMBASSADOR  
POINTED OUT AT CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE  
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01445 01 OF 02 311410Z

HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN INSISTING THE AGREEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

PROGRAMS MUST BE SIGNED SIMULTANEOUSLY AND HAD SAID INTERNAL  
CLEARANCES OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD TAKE ABOUT TWO MONTHS;  
SINCE THAT TIME WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN VARIOUS TARGET DATES FOR  
COMPLETION OF CLEARANCES, BUT FIVE MONTHS AFTER THE END OF NEGOTIATIONS

THERE WAS STILL NO FINAL GOC CLEARANCE. ZANTOVSKY WAS ASKED TO RECALL DECEMBER MEETING WITH FON MIN WHICH FORMER ATTENDED. WHEN AMBASSADOR REACTED TO FON MIN'S STATEMENT THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE CLEARED IN SHORT ORDER BY PROMISING TO NOTIFY WASHINGTON TO SEND EXPERT TO ARRIVE AFTER PAO'S FEBRUARY RETURN FROM LEAVE FOR PROGRAM NEGOTIATIONS, FON MIN WAFFLED ON TIMING OF CLEARANCE. ZANTOVSKY TRIED TO GET AMBASSADOR TO AGREE THAT USG WAS STALLING ON THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF DISPLEASURE WITH ANTI-US CAMPAIGN IN THE MEDIA. SPACIL ENDED THE DISCUSSION BY SUGGESTING PAO SHOULD CALL ON HIM TO GET THINGS MOVING. AMBASSADOR REPEATED RECORD CLEARLY SHOWED GOC WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAY, BUT AS RESULT OF ANTI-US CAMPAIGN, WASHINGTON CERTAINLY HAD NO INCENTIVE TO REARRANGE ONE ITS EXPERT'S SCHEDULE AND TO COME TO PRAGUE ON SHORT NOTICE. INFORMAL

TALKS COULD BE STARTED BUT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO THINK THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE FINALIZED BEFORE SEPTEMBER AT THE EARLIEST, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF MY SUMMER HOME LEAVE AND GOC VACATIONS. WHEN PAO SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED SPACIL FOR APPOINTMENT, HE WAS TOLD ZANTOVSKY WOULD SEE HIM INSTEAD.

3. BEFORE HIS CALL ON ZANTOVSKY, AMBASSADOR SAW ZEMLA, WHO HAD BEEN CHIEF GOC NEGOTIATOR FOR THE AGREEMENT, AT A RECEPTION. ZAMLA TOLD HIM THAT AT A MAY 23 MEETING FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK HAD BROUGHT UP THE AGREEMENT, EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE THAT IT WAS STILL UNSIGNED AND TOLD SPACIL AND ZANTOVSKY TO GET CRACKING.

4. WHEN PAO CALLED ON ZANTOVSKY MAY 25, LATTER'S MOOD WAS CONVIVIAL. HE HAD BEEN ON SICK LEAVE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, SAID THAT ON HIS RETURN HE WAS SURPRISED TO SEE NO PROGRESS ON EXCHANGES  
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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 01445 01 OF 02 311410Z

AGREEMENT,  
AND HE PROPOSED TO LEAVE WITH U.S. SIDE A DRAFT IMPLEMENTING PLAN FOR EDUCATIONAL-CULTURAL EXCHANGES. SAID SCIENTIFIC PART NOT YET COMPLETED BUT WOULD BE PRESENTED "SOON".

5. PAO REVIEWED CHRONOLOGY OF TALKS TO DATE, NOTING THAT, AT DECEMBER BREAK AFTER DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS COMPLETED, GOC SAID IT WOULD BE INFORMING US OF PLANS ON WHEN NEXT TO MEET AND IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL SIGNALS FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT PEOPLE, ALL OF THEM DIFFERENT. ZANTOVSKY SAID "NO USE CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK," IT IS NOW TIME TO MOVE AHEAD.

6. HIS DEPUTY, STANISLAV NOVOTNY, HANDED PAO 12-PAGE MIMEOGRAPHED WORKING DRAFT OF EDUCATIONAL-CULTURAL PART OF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. PAO SAID WE PROBABLY WOULD BE PRESENTING GOC WITH OUR OWN VERSION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN SOME TIME IN JUNE. ZANTOVSKY SUGGESTED

PAO, NOVOTNY, AND ACTING HEAD OF MFA CULTURAL DEPARTMENT JOSEPH ZABOKRTSKY MEET SOON TO START RECONCILING THE DRAFTS PRIOR TO

FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS.

7. PAO SAID GIVEN AMBASSADOR BYRNE'S PLANNED RETURN TO U.S. FOR HOME LEAVE AND CONSULTATIONS AND THE APPROACHING SUMMER VACATION SEASON,

IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY THAT YALE RECHMOND AND/OR WHOEVER ELSE MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS FROM WASHINGTON END COULD COME HERE BEFORE SEPTEMBER. NOVOTNY SAID HE HOPED DISCUSSIONS COULD BE CONCLUDED MORE QUICKLY THAN THAT. PAO SAID HE THOUGHT THAT WAS UNLIKELY.

8. PAO ADDED THAT QUITE APART FROM POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT, EXCHANGES PROGRAM FACED SERIOUS LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS, AND ASKED IF GOC COULD DEAL WITH INCREASED VOLUME OF EXCHANGE S IN MORE PRODUCTIVE MANNER. PAO RECALLED LITERATURE PROFESSOR MILNE HOLTON BEING RECENTLY DETAINED BY AIRPORT POLICE WHO WOULD NOT LET HIM SEPAK WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
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PAGE 04 PRAGUE 01445 01 OF 02 311410Z

REPRESENTATIVE THERE TO INFORM HOLTON OF HIS PROGRAM.

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01445 02 OF 02 311406Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRAGUE 1445

ALSO RECALLED MASSIVE PROBLEMS WITH LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA VISIT LAST DECEMBER. ZANTOVSKY SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THESE PROBLEMS AND THEY COULD BE RESOLVED. HE ADDED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT "THAT YOUR VISITORS RESPECT OUR LAWS AND REGULATIONS."  
PAO ASKED WAS HE TALKING ABOUT AMERICAN JOURNALISTS.

ZANTOVSKY SAID YES. REPLY WAS THIS IS A DIFFERENT SUBJECT, AND AS LONG AS GOC ATTEMPTS TO PLACE PRIOR CONDITIONS ON JOURNALISTS BEFORE GIVING VISAS, IT CAN EXPECT AN UNFAVORABLE PRESS IN U.S.

9. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT CHNOUPEK'S INTEREST IN SPEEDING UP ACTION ON THE AGREEMENT -- IF ZEMLA'S STATEMENT IS ACCURATE-- IS RELATED TO A DESIRE TO HAVE AS MANY POSITIVE ITEMS AS POSSIBLE TO SHOW AT BELGRADE. THERE IS SOME, VERY SLIGHT, EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS MAY NOT BE COMPLETELY HAPPY WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S POOR RELATIONS WITH THE US AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES; CHNOUPEK MAY HAVE WANTED SOMETHING POSITIVE TO SHOW ALSO AT THE JUST-CONCLUDED WP FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW. AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR CAUSING THE MFA TO START MOVING IS SPACIL'S EXPECTED TRANSFER FROM DEALING WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES AFFAIRS TO OTHER FUNCTIONS; HE ALSO PRESUMABLY WANTS TO HAVE EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS ON HIS RECORD AS HE MOVES ON.

10. SENDING VIA AIR UNDER SEPARATE COVER COPY OF GOC PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENT. COMMENTS ON IT AND SUGGESTED U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01445 02 OF 02 311406Z

DRAFT WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL. INITIAL EMBASSY REACTION IS THAT AMERICAN DRAFT CAN BE PRESENTED TO GOC WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS IN LANGUAGE.

11. GOC DRAFT IS MORE EXTENSIVE IN RANGE OF ASKEDFOR EXCHANGE ACTIVITIESAND NUMBER OF PROPOSED EXCHANGES THAN WE ANTICIPATED GIVEN CURRENT TIGHT POLITICAL CLIMATE.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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